

Poverty and invited all States to devote the day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution. The resolution further invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist States, at their request, in organizing national activities for the observance of the day, and requests the Secretary-General to take, within existing resources, the measures necessary to ensure the success of the day's observance by the United Nations.

Eagle Deer exemplifies the goals of this important day. Eagle Deer lives on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation, where almost half of children younger than 17 live in poverty, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Center. Eagle Deer discussed the hopelessness that poverty creates in a person saying, "suicide, addiction, dropout and crime rates are so high in poverty-stricken areas on our reservation, as well as other areas in the world."

Eagle Deer has taken a leading role to improve his community. An honor student at Todd County High School, he is president of the St. Francis Youth Center. He coaches flag football and is himself involved in cross country, basketball, and track. Staying true to his culture, he has organized a traditional youth-honoring powwow. A sentiment that I agree with, Eagle Deer values education as a pathway out of poverty.

LaBradford is an example to other poverty stricken children, and I commend his efforts to alleviate the effects of poverty on children in South Dakota and children worldwide.●

REMEMBERING VADA SHEID

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that today I honor one of the true pioneers for women in Arkansas, Vada Webb Sheid, who passed away this past Monday. Mrs. Sheid was a remarkable woman who was an enterprising entrepreneur and built a business, Sheid's Furniture Company, with her husband Carl in Mountain Home.

But Mrs. Sheid is best remembered as a dedicated public servant who became the first woman in Arkansas to serve in both the Arkansas House of Representatives and Senate.

She began her public service at 19 years old when she became the Izard County welfare director. Soon after, she met Carl, and they opened the area's first self-serve food market in Mountain Home. During World War II, Carl was drafted in the Army, and Mrs. Sheid went to work as a payroll clerk for a company building the Norfolk Dam. After the war, they opened up a grocery store before finally starting the Sheid's Furniture Company in 1957, which her family still runs today.

It was around this time that Mrs. Sheid began to consider furthering her career in public service. She served as

Baxter Country treasurer from 1960 to 1964 before being elected to the Arkansas House. As a State legislator, she focused on issues affecting the elderly and was asked by then-Governor Dale Bumpers to serve as a representative to the White House Conference on Aging.

In 1976, Mrs. Sheid sought higher office and was elected to the Arkansas Senate. She served in that capacity until 1985. Shortly thereafter, then-Governor Bill Clinton appointed her to the Arkansas Police Commission, where she later served as chairman.

Mrs. Sheid had many great accomplishments in the Arkansas Legislature. She sponsored legislation creating Arkansas State University-Mountain Home and North Arkansas Community College in Harrison. She also authored legislation to construct the twin bridges over Lake Norfork, as well as numerous highway projects.

Mr. President, as a woman growing up in Arkansas, Vada Sheid was a true inspiration to me and many others. The example she set is one that I can only hope to follow. She will be missed by all Arkansans. At this time, my thoughts and prayers go out to her family.●

REMEMBERING MIKE WILSON

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I speak with great sadness as I remember the life of a great Arkansan who passed away on February 8, 2008: Michael Evans "Mike" Wilson.

For the last 20 years, Mike served as the chairman and CEO of Lee Wilson and Company, a business that began to transform and build the Arkansas Delta region more than 100 years ago. Growing up the daughter of a rice farmer in eastern Arkansas, I knew of the Wilson family and how their name was synonymous with the values of hard work and enterprise throughout our region.

Mike was not only the leader of his longtime family business; he was also a tireless servant for the city of Wilson and the State of Arkansas. He had served as mayor of Wilson since 1986 and was committed to economic development and advancing educational opportunity in Arkansas. He also lent his time to a considerable number of charitable organizations' boards and committees to further those goals.

A 1965 graduate of the Citadel, Mike also loved his country. He served our Nation in the U.S. Army upon graduation and achieved the rank of captain before his honorable discharge.

He was passionate about life, and I consider him a true friend. He will be missed by us all.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Pat, son Perry, daughter Natalie, and their entire family at this time.●

IN HONOR OF JOHN ROBERTS

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John Roberts of Omaha, NE.

John was an independent and dedicated individual who found comfort in life through helping others. He was a 2001 graduate of Omaha Westside High School and a 2005 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, studying art history. His inquisitive nature toward different cultures and languages, along with his desire to help others, led him to volunteer for the Peace Corps. John was sworn in on December 8, 2005, and served as a construction and skilled trades education volunteer on the island of Erromango in the Republic of Vanuatu.

John's impact in Vanuatu was tangible to the people who lived in his village. He was credited for strengthening South River's transportation, income generation, and communications capabilities. When his parents visited him in Vanuatu, they were proud to see the sense of community John brought to his village. His father, Doug, said the people loved him as though he were one of their own; one Erromango community representative regarded him "as our son." His sincerity and enthusiasm to help those in need is epitomized by his Peace Corps aspiration statement:

Why I have volunteered is a question that I do not fully know the answer to. Coming from a stable farming family I was always taught to help my neighbors but I also feel an internal pull to help lend a hand. Somewhere back in my short life, I made a choice to serve and have been doing so every since. Instead of a single moment defining my reasons to serve, a whole lifetime of learning is driving me to volunteer for the Peace Corps.

On October 11, 2007, John passed away while working at his site, a branch that was being cut by a student inadvertently struck John and another member of the community. He is survived by his parents Doug and Rose of Omaha.

Today, I join all Americans in mourning the loss of this remarkable young man. John Roberts' altruism, compassion, and exemplary service will remain an inspiration for those who wish to follow in his footsteps.●

RECOGNIZING HAVEN'S CANDIES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as today is Valentine's Day—a day when everyone deserves to enjoy at least a little chocolate—I commend a small chocolatier from my home State of Maine that has produced quality chocolates and candies for nearly a century. Haven's Candies of Westbrook is an innovative candy factory that sells a wide variety of chocolate favorites in addition to both traditional and original Maine treats.

The early history of Haven's Candies has an element of romance to it. Herbert Haven, the company's founder, followed his sweetheart from Boston, MA, to Portland, ME, in the early 1900s. They were soon married, and Herbert, who was the son of a candy maker, teamed up with his wife to produce handcrafted candies in their kitchen, which they began selling from the

front parlor of their house in 1915. From this humble start, Haven's Candies has grown to become a well-known name in candy making. The company now has a factory and store in Westbrook, as well as retail locations in Windham and Portland, one block from the house where Haven's began. And as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am particularly pleased that the U.S. Small Business Administration has been able to help Haven's over the years through financing and other assistance.

Using time-tested methods, Haven's still handcrafts its candies. Haven's offers customers an extensive array of exquisite goods, including homemade fudge, marzipan, jumbo peanut butter cups, and buttercrunch toffee. The company also produces a varied selection of sugar-free candies, including peanut brittle and cashew turtles. Some of the Maine-themed candies sold at Haven's include the needham, a chocolate with a soft potato, coconut, and vanilla center, and delicious blueberry creams, celebrating Maine's rich heritage of blueberry harvesting. Perhaps Haven's most impressive production is its salt water taffy. Made by hand, its dozens of unique flavors include creamsicle, maple, and watermelon. Haven's salt water taffy has attracted significant attention, and retailers of the candy include Maine's own L. L. Bean.

Haven's production methods allow for the romantic in all of us to surprise our sweethearts any day of the week. The company can make monogrammed chocolates and offers personalized packaging to create anyone's favorite combination of sweets. For Valentine's Day, Haven's offers chocolate-dipped strawberries, fancy hearts filled with a mix of chocolates, and the unique Valentine party tray, which includes a great variety of chocolates surrounding a heart-shaped tray filled with mixed nuts. Haven's also makes assorted holiday gifts for other occasions, including Easter and Father's Day. The company holds a free open house every Columbus Day when children can make their own candy at the factory. Additionally, Haven's raises funds annually for the Center for Grieving Children by hosting "make your own candy cane" events.

On Valentine's Day, we take the opportunity to enjoy the sweeter side of life. Luckily for the employees of Haven's Candies, they get to enjoy it every day! Not only is the candy they produce scrumptious, but their work ethic is exemplary, and their dedication to putting smiles on the faces of children of all ages is commendable. I congratulate owner Andy Charles and everyone at Haven's who continue to make delectable candies nearly 100 years after this company's remarkable inception and wish them future success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2633. A bill to provide for the safe redeployment of United States troops from Iraq.

S. 2634. A bill to require a report setting forth the global strategy of the United States to combat and defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates.

S. 2636. A bill to provide needed housing reform.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HAGEL:

S. 2637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion for gain from the sale of farmland to encourage the continued use of the property for farming, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 2638. A bill to change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections and establish polling place hours; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2639. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2640. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance and improve insurance, housing, labor and education, and other benefits for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 2641. A bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the transparency of information on skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities and to clarify and improve the targeting of the enforcement of requirements with respect to such facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2642. A bill to establish a national renewable energy standard, to extend and create renewable energy tax incentives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. GREGG):

S. 2643. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations to control hazardous air pollutant emissions from electric utility steam generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2644. A bill to clarify and improve information for members and former members of the Armed Forces on upgrades of discharge, to prohibit personality disorder discharges in cases of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STEVENS:

S. 2645. A bill to require the Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, to conduct an evaluation and review of certain vessel discharges; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 2646. A bill for the relief of Thomas Stephen Long, Patricia Merryll Long, Stephanie Bianca Long, and Chelsea Ann Long; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 2647. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fan assisted, plug-in, scented oil dispensing, electrothermic appliances; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2648. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to improve programs carried out through youth opportunity grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 2649. A bill to allow an income tax exception to limitations on personal casualty losses for losses occurring in tornado disaster areas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mrs.

DOLE, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 2650. A bill to provide for a 5-year carryback of certain net operating losses and to suspend the 90 percent alternative minimum tax limit on certain net operating losses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2651. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to make technical corrections to the renewable fuel standard; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 2652. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to make a grant to the National World War II Museum Foundation for facilities and programs of America's National World War II Museum; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 2653. A bill to further United States security by restoring and enhancing the competitiveness of the United States for international students, scholars, scientists, and exchange visitors and by facilitating business travel to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 2654. A bill to provide for enhanced reimbursement of servicemembers and veterans for certain travel expenses; to the Committee on Armed Services.